

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A support assembly to secure a roof bar, having a longitudinal mounting portion via which articles are secured to the bar, to a vehicle roof mounting so that in use the bar extends generally transversely across the vehicle, said assembly including:

5 a base to which the bar is to be secured;

a user manipulated part mounted in the base and operated by a user to secure and release the assembly with respect to the vehicle mounting;

10 a movable cover mounted on the base to inhibit access to said part and longitudinal mounting portion, the cover being releasable relative for movement to the base to expose said part and mounting portion; and

15 a lock operatively associated with the base and cover to secure the cover to said base to inhibit access to said part and longitudinal mounting portion, and operable to release the cover for the movement relative to said base.

2. The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said cover is captively attached to said base.

3. The support assembly of claim 2, wherein said movement includes pivoting movement about an axis and movement along a predetermined path.

4. The support assembly of claim 3, wherein said axis is generally horizontal when said assembly is secure to said vehicle.

20 5. The support assembly of claim 4, wherein said path is located generally in a vertical plane when said assembly is secured to a vehicle.

6. The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said movement is provided by projections on said cover slidably engaged in tracks in said base.

7. The support assembly of claim 1 wherein, said lock includes a lock cylinder mounted in said cover and operable to engage said base.

8. The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said base has a cavity via which the user has access to said part, with said cover being movable relative to said base to close said cavity to inhibit said access.

9. The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said part is a threaded shaft 30 having a longitudinal axis, with the user causing angular movement of said shaft to secure and release the assembly with respect to the vehicle, with said shaft being slidably supported in said base for angular movement about said longitudinal axis.

10. The support assembly of claim 9, wherein said longitudinal axis is generally vertically extending when said assembly is mounted on the vehicle.

11. The support assembly of claim 1 further including a securing member mounted in the base and to engage the vehicle mounting, which securing member is tensioned by said part to inhibit relative movement between the vehicle and assembly.

12. The support assembly of claim 11, wherein said securing member is a strap assembly including a strap body to extend between the base and vehicle mounting, and a threaded portion threadably engaged with said shaft so that movement of said threaded portion changes the tension in said strap when said strap is engaged with the vehicle mounting.

13. The support assembly of claim 12, wherein said strap includes an eyelet.

10 14. The support assembly of claim 7, wherein said lock cylinder is key operable and includes a projection that is angularly movable between a first position engaged with said base to retain the cover in a position inhibiting access to said part, and a second position releasing the cover with respect to the base.

15 15. The support assembly of claim 1 further including a mounting adaptor that is to be secured to the vehicle mounting, and wherein said part threadably engages said adaptor and is tensioned to secure the assembly to the vehicle.

16. The support assembly of claim 1 further including a securing member attached to the base to secure the bar to the base, and wherein said securing member is accessible only when said cover is positioned to provide access thereto.

20 17. The support assembly of claim 16, wherein said securing member is a threaded fastener threadably engaged with said base and is to pass through said bar.

18. The support assembly of claim 1 further comprising a roof bar, and wherein said mounting portion includes at least one longitudinal flange.